CHAPTER XVII

PUBLIC ORDER[1]

THE DEFENSELESS PHILIPPINES

IT will be noticed that the title to this chapter is "Public Order." Why not "Public Safety," or "Philippine Defense"? The reason is not far to seek. From the military viewpoint, the Philippines is defenseless.

Law and order are maintained by the Philippine Constabulary and the municipal police. American authority in the Islands is represented by the United States Army with eleven thousand men, of whom the majority are Filipino scouts, and by the Asiatic fleet of the United States Navy, which spends the winter season in Philippine waters. Plainly, small forces of this nature would be of slight value in the event of a major war. Excellent landings for an expeditionary force exist Corregidor, which commands the entrance to Manila Bay, is a strongly fortified military base and was intended to be impregnable. The better opinion is that even this fortress, and Manila which it is supposed to protect, cannot be held against a hostile attack of any consequence from land.

The United States Army will remain in the Philippines until the Philippine Republic is proclaimed and then will be withdrawn. The Navy may retain a minor naval base in the Philippines, and a flotilla of its smaller craft in Asiatic waters. As a consequence, when the Philippines shall become independent, the defense of the Islands will be exclusively a

problem of the Philippine Republic.

The Filipinos make good soldiers. A number of them

[1] This chapter was read by Brigadier General Basilio J. Valdez, Chief of Constabulary.